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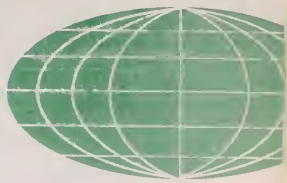
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SHARING OUR
KNOWLEDGE
OF
AGRICULTURE
WITH OTHER
NATIONS



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U.S. International Agricultural Development Service
(United States Department of Agriculture, X PA 671)



Food is the basic need for human life. Yet of all the people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, 85 percent have inadequate or unsuitable food for good health. Some 2 billion people in these areas of the world are undernourished.

By the end of the century the number of people living in these regions is expected to more than double. To feed them—an increase of nearly 3 billion people—the less developed countries will need as much additional food as is now produced by all the farmers in the world.

In the past, the simplest way to boost food production was to open new land for cultivation. But land is becoming scarce. India, for example, hopes to increase farm lands only two-tenths of 1 percent per year while its population is expected to increase more than 2 percent—10 times as fast.

Clearly, food production can keep pace with the rapid growth in population only if farmers in these countries can raise their food output per acre. This requires widespread know-how of modern agricultural production—know-how which most of the developing countries do not now have.

In the tradition of the American Farmer to “lend a hand” to his neighbor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is cooperating with the Agency for International Development and other organizations in sharing with these countries our great wealth of agricultural knowledge.

AGRICULTURE

The Starting Point for Development

Most developing nations are “rural nations.” From 60 to 80 percent of the people live in rural areas and earn their living from the land. Many rural families need all of the produce from their meager plots just to meet their minimum food needs. Cash income is very small—in poor crop years it may be nonexistent.

In many developing countries production





Sharing Agricultural Know-How Through Technical Assistance and Training

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from agriculture represents close to half of the gross national product (Nigeria 60 percent, Ecuador 37 percent, Pakistan 50 percent). And it often supplies three-fourths or more of all their exports.

Rural people in these countries are the greatest source of labor to help build national industries. But fewer farmers means each one must produce still more food. Rural areas offer the best market for a country's stepped-up production of manufactured goods. But this requires higher farm incomes to enable rural people to buy.

To improve living conditions for the greatest number of people, to build strong economies and stable governments, the developing countries must give primary attention to progress in agriculture.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

- The developing countries must use more land to produce food crops instead of nonfood crops—especially nonfood crops in world surplus.

- They must develop their related agricultural industries. If the peasant farmer is to produce more food on his farm, he must have fertilizer, pesticides, farm machinery, small tractors, efficient hand tools, small trucks, improved wagons, water pumps, seeders, and improved seed.

- Developing countries must train more farmers in more efficient agricultural methods. Governments must provide teachers—farm advisers who will get their shoes dirty, specialists who can effectively support the farm adviser, and people who can talk the farmer's language and prepare how-to-do-it bulletins, radio scripts, posters, and films.

- Adequate storage facilities must be constructed in countries developing their agriculture. The warehouse, freezer plant, and grain elevator are as much farm tools as the plow. Without them, the food harvested must be sold

immediately, even though this may be inefficient. Nor can hungry nations permit waste of stored grain by rats and other pests.

- Countries must also improve their marketing and distribution. Why should the farmer grow more food unless he has a place to sell it and a way to get it to market?

- Governments in many of the less developed countries will have to stabilize farm prices and in many cases raise prices to encourage farm production. Farmers will not buy fertilizer or improved seeds unless these investments result in higher income. The farmer needs some guarantee of profit before he invests in progress.

- Developing countries must also support local research. Although the United States has a wealth of agricultural research findings, the less developed countries must adapt much of this research and technology to their own conditions and needs before it can be used. In tropical regions, the less developed countries will have to do the pioneering.

- Governments of developing countries will have to supply enough money to fully carry out these programs. Progress costs money. A less developed country, with half or more of its people living on farms, can no longer afford a 2 to 5 percent national allocation for agriculture; much more is needed.

- Finally, the hungry nations must encourage foreign investments in their agricultural industries; private industry in the developed regions of the world can supply much know-how, technology, and capital necessary to increase world food production.

These are the kinds of things that the less developed countries must do if they want to produce more food and improve standards of living of their people. These are the kinds of things they must do to get their agriculture moving.

WHY ARE WE INVOLVED?

The United States has declared a “War on Hunger.” We have committed ourselves to ship

food to the food-deficit countries, buying time so that they can modernize their agriculture. And we have committed ourselves to send our agricultural technicians to help them develop their own agriculture. Why?

- Because it is part of the American tradition to help those who are in need.

- Because as President Johnson has said, “We know that want is the enemy of peace, and hopelessness is the mother of violence. We know that . . . the wealthy nations cannot survive as islands of abundance in a world of hunger, sickness, and despair.”

- Because helping them also helps us. As incomes go up in the less developed countries, their people buy more United States farm products. If income in developing nations could be increased only \$100 per person per year, their imports of United States farm products would likely go up more than \$1.5 billion each year. But unless their agriculture develops, their incomes will not go up.

HOW IS USDA INVOLVED?

Through its more than 100 years of service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has acquired much knowledge and experience that is vitally important to agricultural progress in developing countries—know-how in agricultural economics, credit, agricultural research, marketing systems, and soil and water conservation programs. Such know-how is what many countries lack and USDA has to share.

To use effectively the many resources of the Department of Agriculture, the International Agricultural Development Service was established in 1963. IADS has the task of coordinating the Department's programs to assist the low-income countries increase their food production. Two major areas of work are technical assistance and training. IADS evaluates requests, helps draw up plans for filling them, and then assists in carrying them out.

IADS is the agency in USDA responsible for mobilizing specialized assistance from all



USDA agencies. It works closely with the Agency for International Development and maintains close liaison with land-grant universities, international organizations, foundations, and other private institutions also providing agricultural assistance abroad.



Offering Technical Guidance

Over 300 USDA specialists offered technical advice and guidance to governments of 40 countries in 1966. About half of these specialists were members of resident teams assisting on many fronts of agricultural development—forestry, agricultural economics, cooperatives, extension, research, credit, conservation.

Resident technicians are assigned to countries for two or more years; they work with members of U.S. AID Missions. Some specialists are making scientific searches for solutions to the critical blocks to development. Others are seeking solutions to insect and livestock disease problems which hold back production. Some USDA specialists are on such emergency assignments as directing forest firefighting or seeking ways to help stabilize farm prices.

IADS and other USDA agencies carefully study each request for assistance to find how the Department can most effectively and efficiently help. Often, at a country's request, a team of specialists is sent to the country to make an on-the-scene evaluation. Based on the team's observations and recommendations, IADS advises AID what help can be provided without unduly impairing domestic programs.

Agreements with AID to provide USDA assistance enable agencies of the Department of Agriculture to send their own specialists. This eliminates need for a separate technical assistance corps. More important, it means USDA technicians working overseas continue to serve as members of their own USDA agency and can call upon it for support. Top professional men can be assigned abroad and, when necessary, sent quickly. This puts the full resources and experience of the U.S. Department of Agriculture behind each advisor working in a developing country. At the same time, it benefits U.S. agriculture through new and useful experiences for USDA's personnel.



Training a Technical Corps

A major hindrance to agricultural progress in developing nations is the small number of individuals technically trained in agricultural skills.

Each year over 4,000 technicians, scientists, and leaders from other countries come to the United States for training in agriculture. Equipping them with new agricultural skills and knowledge is a major part of USDA's technical assistance to developing nations.

These individuals have, or will have, strategic roles in the development of their countries. They are selected carefully by their government and U.S. technicians working in their countries. About half are sent by the Agency for International Development. Others are sponsored by private foundations, the United Nations, and other governments.

Their U.S. training in agriculture is conducted by such specialists as county agricultural and home demonstration agents, soil conservation technicians, farmer cooperative managers, researchers, administrators, and forest rangers. Many attend special short courses and workshops conducted by universities, USDA, or U.S. business firms. A number of these agriculturists enroll in university courses along with American students. In addition to technical training, these key individuals from developing nations learn much about American people, the American way of life, and the environment in which our agricultural industry operates.

Improving Nutrition Too!

There is more to hunger than an empty stomach. Nutritional hunger can be just as debilitating and in time just as fatal as out-and-out starvation. IADS and AID are co-operating to improve the nutritional quality of diets in the less developed countries as well as helping them to grow more food. Research is underway now on ways to add additional protein to foods, to breed new high-protein crops, and to create acceptable new foods from non-traditional sources.

Recruitment

Most USDA people working on international development are technically employees of the

various USDA agencies, temporarily assigned to IADS programs. IADS is only a coordinating group, supervising USDA technical assistance teams, survey missions, and foreign training work. USDA personnel interested in working on international agricultural development should contact their own supervisor or agency personnel office. Others may write directly to IADS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Hunger--Everyone's Responsibility

"Next to the pursuit of peace, the really greatest challenge to the human family is the race between food supply and population increase. That race tonight is being lost.

The time for rhetoric has clearly passed. The time for concerted action is here and we must get on with the job.

We believe three principals must prevail if our policy is to succeed:

First, the developing nations must give highest priority to food production, including the use of technology and the capital of private enterprise.

Second, nations with food deficits must put more of their resources into voluntary family planning programs.

Third, the developed nations must all assist other nations to avoid starvation in the short run and to move rapidly towards the ability to feed themselves.

Every member of the world community now bears a direct responsibility to help bring our most basic human account into balance."

—The President's State of the Union
Message, January 10, 1967

4 Revised July 1967